

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

MBFR-03 GAC-01 SAJ-01 IO-12 EB-11 STR-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 NEA-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 /160 R

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S/ S - MR. BARNES

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072560

E. O.: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, EEC, NATO, UN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S MEETING WITH FRG OPPOSITION LEADER
BARZEL

1. SUMMARY. DURING A MEETING WITH THE FRG OPPOSITION
LEADER RAINER BARZEL ON APRIL 16, THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED
US RESPECT FOR THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION IN GERMANY AND
REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE US POSITION ON MAJOR CURRENT ISSUES.
BARZEL EMPHASIZED MOST HEAVILY THE NEED FOR INTENSIFIED
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE. A RESTATEMENT OF
THE WESTERN IDEAL WAS NEEDED WHICH WOULD CAPTURE THE
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IMAGINATION OF THE NEW GENERATION IN EUROPE AND STOP THE LEFTWARD DRIFT. BARZEL ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE CDU/ CSU BUNDESTAG GROUP WOULD VOTE FOR UN MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRG BUT ONLY IF FRG REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN WAS ASSURED. END SUMMARY

2. CDU CHAIRMAN RAINER BARZEL CALLED ON THE SECRETARY ON APRIL 16 FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. AT THE OPENING OF THE CONVERSATION THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED AMERICAN RESPECT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE FRG INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE LEADERSHIP WHICH BARZEL HAD PROVIDED. THE SECRETARY THEN REVIEWED BRIEFLY US ATTITUDES ON MAJOR CURRENT ISSUES.

3. TURNING FIRST TO EASTERN EUROPE, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING, HOWEVER, THAT BASIC DIFFERENCES WILL REMAIN. OUR INTENTION IS TO PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY WAY WITHOUT TOO MUCH SPEED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN MILITARILY STRONG AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO PREVENT ANY UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM EUROPE. THERE WILL BE PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS FOR SUCH WITHDRAWALS BUT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TRY TO MEET THIS PRESSURE AND THE SECRETARY WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THERE ARE BOUND TO BE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC IN THE TRADE AND MONETARY FIELDS BUT WE BELIEVE THEY CAN BE DEALT WITH ON THE BASIS OF FRIENDSHIP. THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE ATLANTIC SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT THE TRADE BILL WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IS NOT A PROTECTIONIST MEASURE. IT IS DRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT SUFFICIENT LATITUDE AND AUTHORITY TO MAKE SENSIBLE TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. THERE IS NO INTENTION IN WASHINGTON TO APPLY THE BILL IN A ONE- SIDED WAY. THE SECRETARY REALIZED THAT A QUESTION EXISTS AS TO HOW WE CAN BEST DISCUSS DIFFERENCES WITH THE EC. FOR OUR PART WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR PROCEDURE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS
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THAT USEFUL DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE RATHER THAN HOW THEY

TAKE PLACE. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY LEADERSHIP WHICH THE FRG CAN GIVE IN EUROPE TO MAKING SUCH DISCUSSIONS A REALITY.

5. REFERRING TO CSCE, THE SECRETARY THOUGHT THAT A FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE WOULD GET STARTED AT THE END OF JUNE. HE EXPECTED IT TO LAST A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AND BE FOLLOWED BY A RECESS OF BETWEEN NINE MONTHS AND A YEAR AFTER WHICH THERE MIGHT BE A SECOND HIGH- LEVEL CONFERENCE. AS FOR MBFR, THE SECRETARY EXPECTED THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER. THE SECRETARY MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME SUSPICION IN EUROPE THAT A DEAL HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR AFFECTING MBFR AND CSCE. THE SECRETARY ASSURED BARZEL THAT WE HAD MADE NO SUCH DEAL. WE DID ARRANGE WITH THE SOVIETS THAT CSCE AND MBFR CONFERENCES COULD OCCUR ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME SINCE THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THEM; BUT EVEN THIS HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF OUR ALLIES. NOTHING FURTHER HAS BEEN ARRANGED WITH THE SOVIETS.

6. BARZEL SAID HE HOPED TO BRING THE MAJORITY OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING FRG APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE GERMAN UNITY ON A QUESTION OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. THE DECISIVE QUESTION IN GAINING THIS MAJORITY WOULD BE WHETHER BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE UN BY THE FRG WAS ADEQUATELY ENSURED. IF SO THE BUNDESTAG MAJORITY WOULD BE OVERWHELMING. BARZEL RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED TO HIM TO AVOID DOMESTIC DISPUTES CONCERNING BERLIN AND RELATED GERMAN QUESTIONS. FROM WHAT HE HAD HEARD IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL HE WAS REASSURED THAT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION WOULD BE ADEQUATELY ENSURED.

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